cuts offered by different private airlines, during July to October, 2002; and

(c) the extent to which the possible loss due to vacant space on flights has been made good thereby?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) to (c) No, Sir. In response to market requirements, Indian Airlines introduces Promotional Fares on its domestic network from time to time. The level of fare reduction varies from sector to sector and season to season depending various market factors. Indian Airlines has introduced the 'APEX Fares' scheme from 1st August to 31st October, 2002, which has been extended upto 31st March, 2003. The fare component in Apex fares are lower by 12% to 64% over the normal fare component. Jet Airways also offers 'Apex fares' and their fares are also in the same range. Promotional fares have helped in increasing the seat factor of Indian Airlines by 2% & 6% during the month of September & October, 2002 respectively as compared to the corresponding months in the last year. During July to October, 2002 period, Air India has not under cut any filed fares.

IOC's retail outlet in Centaur Hotel premises

*119. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether IOC had a retail outlet in the Centaur Airport Hotel's premises;

(b) whether the same is on the land leased by the Airports Authority of India;

(c) whether the same has been transferred to the new promoter by Hotel Corporation of India during disinvestment;

(d) if so, whether valuation of the same was done by IOC and ownership changed with its consent; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) the Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOC) has a retail outlet on a site at Santacruz, Mumbai, opposite to Centaur Hotel since 1975. This site has been taken on lease from the Airports Authority of India by the IOC.

(c) to (e) The dealer of the retail outlet was the Hotel Corporation of India (HCI). The dealership was not transferred to M/s Batra Hospitalities Pvt. Ltd. to whom Centaur Hotel, Mumbai was transferred on disinvestment as it was not transferable as per the dealership agreement. Consequently, the dealership of the HCI was terminated on 27.9.2002. Not satisfied with the decision of the IOC, M/s Batra Hospitalities Pvt. Ltd. approached the City Civil Court, Mumbai. The matter is presently *sub-judice.*

Losses suffered by BRPL

*120. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bongaigaon Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited (BRPL) has been running in loss;

(b) if so,the losses suffered by it during the last three years and the reasons therefor;

(c) what has been the capacity utilisation of both the units *viz.*, refinery and petrochemicals during the last three years; and

(d) the steps being taken to improve the functioning of BRPL and wipe out losses?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) BRPL incurred losses during the financial years 2000-01 and 2001-02.

(b) Profit/(Loss) of the company during the last three years is given below:—

Financial Year	Profit/(loss) after tax (in Rs. crore)
1999-2000	32.24
2000-2001	(57.44)
2001-2002	(198.61)

NOTE: Bracket indicates loss.